

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 592

By Kilby

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Congress to prohibit the sale of American shipping ports to Dubai Ports World or any other state-owned company.

WHEREAS, the Bush administration's recent decision to permit the transfer of ownership and operations of six major U.S. shipping ports to Dubai Ports World, a state-owned company in the United Arab Emirates, is a matter of grave concern; and

WHEREAS, the sale would place strategically important shipping ports in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami, and Philadelphia in the hands of a nation whose largest city, Dubai, is a banking center thought to attract funds from groups such as al-Qaeda; and

WHEREAS, the six U.S. ports to be acquired by the United Arab Emirates accounted for 26 percent of all port traffic in America in 2004; and

WHEREAS, each year, over nine million cargo containers pass through U.S. ports, yet only a tiny fraction are physically inspected by customs officials; the next threat to America may well arrive upon our shores via an uninspected cargo container; and

WHEREAS, the head of the United Nation's nuclear watchdog agency has said that the United Arab Emirates was among more than twenty countries with a role in the nuclear black market; and

WHEREAS, America's security should remain in American hands; goods flow from our vital seaports by truck, train, and barge to every town and city in this great nation; American security should never be sold to the highest bidder; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the United States Congress to prohibit the sale of

American shipping ports to Dubai Ports World or any other state-owned company to ensure national security and the safety of the citizens of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate, and to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.